A SPEEDIE POSTE

VVith certaine New Letters.

OR,

The first fruits of new Conceits, neuer yet disclosed.

New published for the helpe of such as are desirous to learne to write Letters.

By *I. W.* Gent.

Printed at *London*, by *Elizabeth All-de*, for *Francis Coules*, dwelling in the old Baily. 1629.

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Printed at London, by Francis Bern. & Ed. for Francis Coules, dwelling in the old Baily. 1629.

TO THE COVRTEOVS AND impartiall Reader, health and prosperitie.

HERE is presented to thy iudicious view and fauourable censure, a Secretarie to diuers mens conceptions, as haue not yet borne handled, in any booke of this kind; the varietie of matters and theirs answers are more capable to content the learned, then the ignorant, howsoeuer, vseful to both, and chiefly necessary to instruct the youth, in the true methode of inditing and

composing Letters. Therefore this effectious worke finds a gracious entertainment in thy sight, and that vnder the banner of thy approbation it may freely wander the world, and warre against the ignorant worldlings of this iron age, who (as worms in a Library) seeme onely to liue, but for to destroy learning, I shall euer endeuour to set out such workes as may be, for the enriching the more thy Spirit, and to adorne thy soule. So I commit you to Gods protection, without which, health is sicknesse, loyes sorrowes, and prosperity misery.

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A Strange posting Post, with a Fardell of Letters: and their seuerall *Answers.*

To a Friend, vpon a report of an vnfaithfull dealing.

IT is a common saying, that euery thing is as it is taken; which I finde more common then true, for I take your for a Friend, but finde you not so; and I take you for an honest man, but what you are you know. Two things in a man are hatefull, vnfaithfulnesse; and vnthankfulnesse, which I refer to the consideration of your conscience: what you haue found me you know, what you might haue found me, you might haue known: what you shall find me, you shall know: but as I confesse imperfection in affecting vnworthinesse, so wil I take better words with mine opinion, then to resolue a truth vpon error, & yet not so carried away with passion, but that I desire rather satisfaction then reuenge, which vpon your answer I shall determine: I rest till then, and alwayes, as I haue reason, and shall haue cause.

Yours, or not yours, T. W.

The Answer.

TAke me as you list, I will take you as I finde you, betwixt wit and iudgement, carried away with a windie humour: for if the euill breath of a worse minde hath poysoned the sence of your hearing, yet would discretion make a stay at iniury. I challenge no further fauour then desert, nor will deserue lesse esteeme then my desire, that kindnesse may answer faith in constancy. The worst humour in the minde is iealousie, which seldome is bred without iniustice; and what more wounds the conscience then misconceit? which how far it workes in a troubled spirit, patience vpon a right temper can discerne: friendship stands not vpon reports, wisdome vpon humours, nor honesty vpon mistrust; but he that is himselfe can best iudge of another. So leaning worth to an euen weight, and my loue to the like censure, resolued vpon confession of imperfection, to put off impatience in passion, or in continuance of misconceit to put a separation in affection. I rest as I may rest:

Yours, what you will, F. R.

A Letter of Loue to a worthy Beloued.

SWeet Creature, whose worthinesse in goodnesse, shewes a great measure in happinesse, giue me leaue, rather with my hearts seruice to honour you, then with my weake praises to wrong you: for had not vertue set a beauty vpon the art of Nature, wisdome could not so much admire the worke, as to stand amazed at the worth of it, nor Loue so deuote himselfe vnto it, as to desire not to liue without it. The learned may find out similies to expresse wonders in their worth, but a simple heart makes you simply beyond all figures, the substance of his honour, and loue, the subiect of his life: and while wit goes a woll-gathering in the field of idle fancie, reason

sets

sets vp his rest on the ground of your onely grace. Poets look out for Goddesses, and Philosophers for the riches of the earth, and the Astronomers for the Lights of the lower heauens, to set their beloued in equality with their best worth, yea, & to exceed them in their esteeme: but hee that hath cleerely beheld you, and rightly discerned you, may bee silent in speech, leaues fictions to fond passions, and in the truth of more worth then words can set downe, in the admiration of perfections, vnder heauen, if there be any, hold you an Angell vpon earth. Blame me not then for louing you, nor my loue to honour you, nor for the honour of my loue to rest onely vpon your fauour; for, whatsoeuer the world holdeth you, I hold you of more worth then the world. and to mée the world nothing worth without you: fauour him then who doth affect you, grace him that doth honour you, commaud him that doth serue you and make him liue that is but as dead without you: pardon the plainnesse of my style and accept truth for the best eloquence of Loue: In which I will rest euer,

Yours deuoted, wholly to be commanded, R. N.

The Answer.

SIR, with patience I haue read the fiction of passion, and though I be no Scholler, yet haue I heard, that it is not the least art to conceale Art: where Simplicity being the spokes-man of Loue, and Truth the eloquence of wisdome, are wrongfully alleadged in commendations aboue desert: Loue is said to be blind, how then can he iudge of colours? and wisdome is free from passion, how then can it subscribe to admiration? Poets fictions are fancies, and fained fancies are but Natures furies, which more trouble the head then the heart: It is an euill obiect that makes an abiect of a subiect, and vnhappy are those eies that blind one another. For my selfe to be a cause of your hurt, in your misconceit, I should be sorry, and to doe you good in wishing you more happinesse then to honour vnworthinesse, I should bée glad. Passion

 makes

make the bondage of affection; but a free spirit can best resolue vpon perfection, where if there were any vpon the earth, it would be taken vp into heauen, for the world is not worthy of it. Wherefore though I be not angry, let me a little chide you, that to a simple woman, giues the title of an Angell, which if I were vere vnto in the least point of vertue, I should perswade you rather to mitigate passion, then to dissemble affection, or to breed a false opinion vpon an vniust commendation: yet not to blot out a faire word till I finde a foule sense, and in hope in a bushell of corne there may be one graine of pure wheat, I will neither be bitter to sweetnesse, nor vngratefull to kindnesse, but so estieme of deserts in their trials, as may accomplish content in their trust. So hoping that the eye of vnderstanding will behold all things in their best natures, and Loue will not bee so wilfull as to lose his sight in a fearing humour, but to cary his wit with his eye, and his heart with his tongue: I rest,

Yours as I may, E. B.

For the preferment of a Seruant.

SIR, where you speake to me for a Seruant, I hope I haue fitted your desire. This Bearer I know, and you know me, that will not wrong you in doing him more then right: his sufficiency in your employment you shall not doubt of, and for his seruice I will giue my word: his valour is without quarrell, and his patience without base feare: sociable, but with good company: kind, but he knowes how: and so discreet, as can iudge betwixt a Maister and Seruant. For his tongue I neuer heard him tayed, nor idle wherebe might be well employed: he hath thriuen much vpon a little, and the better hope of his encrease. More I will not say in his behalfe: but leaue to your discretion the commendement of his duty, who, I hope will haue such care of my credit, as to make you thanke me for my com-

commendation. So till I see you, or heare from you, and always I rest,

Yours, or not mine owne, D. B.

An answer to the same.

YOur Letter I haue receiued, the bearer I haue entertained, and your words I haue beleeued; his countenance promiseth a good condition, his behauiour shewes no base breeding, and my hope is of him, that I shall haue mutch content in him: if it lye in my power to requite your kindnesse in the like, I will not be my selfe if I forget to be yours: I shall shortly haue occasion to vse him in some matter of importance, in the meane time assuring my selfe of his sufficiency, wishing that in the like, or any other occasion I may haue meanes to requite your kindnesse: with hearty thankes for your care of me in this, and many other testimonies of your loue, with my hearty commendations, I commit you to the tuition of the Almighty, and so rest,

Yours in what I am mine owne, R. N.

A Letter for News.

I KNOW not in this time how to write vnto my Friends, the world being as it is, for here in our Countrey our tongues are tyed vp within our teeth, for feare of certain Birds that will fye away with our breath: it may be because soles will be busie with matters about their wits, or some out the order of high-way walkers, akin to the short Coates in the Carde, will set trappes for tongues, to make them keepe their wits in good compasse: and so it is necessary, for if it were not for the stocks, the Beggers would be so bouse with the best men in our Parish, but about you I thinke matters are caried in a better course, where wise men know how to handle soles, and knaues may goe walke the Horse-faire for lacke of fellowes: if there be

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any matter of worth that you dare commit to paper, you know how to send to mee, and being my selfe, my care of your good shall not sleepe in the watch of your trust: we heare of many things, but few worth the hearing, for every one speakes out of the spleene of his affection: but what you write I know will bee truth, and therefore doe long to heare from you of such occurrents as come to your hands, that you dare write, and I may receiue: I hold you wise, and know you honest, and therefore will leaue to your discretion the consideration of my request, and in your knowledge of my affection, the commandment of my loue, in which I will euer rest,

Your most faithfully assured, H. T.

The Answer.

YOU write vnto mee the course of your Countrey dannces, where with a rule of little reason, a man may square out their measures: but for our kinde of people that is more then Panie-steeple, they are Birds of such feathers as euery Poulterer cannot be acquainted with, for wee haue Cuckoes so like Kiffrels, that a good Faulkoner can hardly know them, and such Buzzards vpon perches, that if they had bells they would be at high prizes: but for such Ale-scouts as are like the short Coats in the Cards, good gamesters know how to keepe or to discard them. But for matter of Newes, the world is so full of them, that if you will haue patience you may buy them at a small rate: Businesse of State are for men of State, I am none of them: but for the meane estate I can onely say, that the Labourer is sometime at more quiet then his Landlord: a cleane conscience is like a cleane paire of sheets, which though they may becourse, they be not lousy: from other Countries we heare of great warres, and reioyce greatly in our peace at home. One thing I haue lately noted in piping, that if euery pipe made a noyse: the sound of Tobacco would make strange musike in the world, for almost

euery

every Begger will be at his pipe of Tobacco; I know not any so bad ware so well sold, and if it be as I heare, whole Mynes, and halfe Lordships are gone away in smoake. Wanton Idolatrie is much feared, for diuers gallant spirits will fall on their knees to painted faces: Loue is so much talked of, and so little found, that it is like a Riddle that few or none can interpret. The Diuell is so busse in the world, that hee seekes to make a hell vpon earth, but God hath bound him to his limits, and no doubt but God hath his Church, for whose sake, or rather for his owne sake, he hath mercy ouer his people: for vs here we find him gracious, to whom we refer the issue of all our actions. For the wisdome of the world, I know not what to say to it, for wise women are counted witches, for they make fooles of wise men, and wise men are so sunke in their vnderstanding, that women haue a great sway in their conceit, so that in the common course of mirth, kindnesse is a great continuance of neighbourhood, and encrease of people. These are the occurents of these times, how long they will hold I know not; if there were matter of more worth, I would write to you more at large: but let this suffice for this time, that at all times, in all, I am, I will rest,

Yours as you know, E.R.

A Letter to a Friend, to borrow money.

IF necessity make the tryall of a Friend, ill fortune the excuse of folly, that put me in the predicament of, I pray you helpe me. Money hath in many eares an ill sound in the sence of borrowing, especially in the feare of the performance of payment; but all hearts are not of one disposition, for though honesty among fooles is thought to be ill for thriuing, yet better wise had rather die with a good conscience, then to liue with a gaie countenance. I hope you know me so well as to make no doubt of my good meaning, a hundreth Crownes will seruie my turne,

which

shall not be a hundred dates in payment: set your time, and if I fails, let me be held as great an enemy as I hold your friend: loath I am to trouble you with perswasion, knowing the truth of your discretion, and the noblenesse of your disposition: to which leaning the event of my hope, in your kind answer, I rest,

Yours devoted and obliged to be commanded, W. I.

The Answer.

If I were in the predicament of quantity, as you are of quality, you should need no prayer where you have interest in command, for no sound of an ill sense can so corrupt the heart of a good understanding, but tarry (be fortune what it list) a friend will be alwayes himselfe, which esteemes not money a bone man, nor with a wrongfull feare will grieue the care of a good conscience: and therefore, though not so furnished as I should be, to helpe all my friends at their need, yet such is my knowledge of your loue, and such my assurance of your worth, as weighing it with my gold, I found it so equal in the ballance, that I could not deny your request: your Crownes I haue sent you, and wish they were Pounds to pleasure you. So glad that in a little I can shew my greater loue, I rest,

Yours assured in more loue then money, T. R.

To an Enemy vpon a quarrell.

Sirra, your base dealing with your betters, will make you perhaps know the price of a pantry fellow, whose fearefull greatnesse shall not free you from the Cudgell. I dare not challenge you, such slaues you will tell tales, but to

morrow

morrow in the morning early, I ride to Highgate, whither if you will come out of towne, I will set you home with a vengeance, when, if my sword hold, you shall taste the tast of the edge of it: but if you keepe home, I will make my boy to battle you: so sorry to put my patience to so much pain as to write to you, upon your answer I rest, howsoever,

Your implacable Enemy, T. A.

The Answer.

O Great Monarke of a little Mole-hill, what ailes you to be so far beside your selfe before Midsomer? I heare you are a great Bull-calf, and therefore if you were a Butcher, your hands would be much in blood. If you be a fraid of your owne shadow, goe to bed and sleepe: for your sword, if it cut a mile afore the edge, let no Butterflye come in the way of it. As you dare not challenge, so you dare not answer it. But for your iourney to High-gate, I thinke it will be rather to Newgate, for stealing of a horse to carry you to Tiburne; where if your Boy escape for the cutting of a purse, I doubt not his Master will hang for picking of a pocket. When I see you, I will not talke with you, but take you as I finde you, and make you know I remember you. And so hoping upon mine answer you will make your will, or alter your humour, I rest.

Yours, as you mine, T. R.

A Scoffing Letter to a Punke, that thought too well of her selfe.

FAIRE Mistris, if I should not say I love you, you would be angry, because so many tell you they doe so: and if I should love you I should bee angrie with my selfe, knowing how many are out of love with you. I must confesse, you are as faire as art can make you, but for your wit, if you have not

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[illegible] I [illegible] what to make of it. I would haue beene [illegible] you, but [illegible] better company keepes me from you, and when I haue nothing to doe, I shall perhaps vnwillingly think on you: but for this time, hauing nothing to say to you, to your better friends I leaue you: and so rest,

Yours as you see, T. D.

Her Answer.

FOND Sir, if you were any wiser then a Mawdcocke, you would hold scorning the scrimme of wit. For your loue, it is so little worth as I weigh it not, and for your anger I care not: if you be angry with your selfe, make your selfe amends: and howsoeuer other hate me, I am sure I am out of loue with you. Touching disease, if my Dog did amisse, I would be loath you should meddle with him, and when you thinke of my fall, take heed to your owne health, experiments are dangerous, for as I heare you haue beene in such a dumble bath, that you were almost stifled, but comme against to a little breath, you would make you whole with my hurt; but what hope soeuer of good is in me, you know there's none of you: for your company it is like your selfe, not a bartell better herring; therefore keepe you where you are, for you are best welcome when you are away. So to quite your kindnesse with a crust of the like Cake, if it choake you in the digestion, it is no more then your desert. So leaning you to your selfe, knowing none of worth that will beare you companie, I rest,

Mine owne as you see, A. T.

To a Friend at the Vniuersity, a worthy Graduate.

From the Court.

HONEST George, how happily doth thou liue, among the quartetto of wits, who in the choicest studies, may spend

their

their time in exchange of contentment, where the Orators eloquence, the Philosophers experience, the Diuines inspiration, and the Poets inuention, in the pleasure of the spirit, make the paradise of the world. What sweet companions are bookes that giue men to the eie of vnderstanding? and what honey-bees gather out of those flowers that neuer lose their sweetnesse in a true sense? There doth reason teach nature how to gouerne the senses, and grace teacheth reason how to gouerne nature: there wisdome learneth wit how to bridle will, and fancies employed in the workes of iudgement: there, fooles haue no fauour, nor the vnworthy honour the vertuous disgrace, nor the studious disdaine, but God is daily serued, religion reuerenced, Law obserued, learning beloued, and loue preserued, knowledge practised, charitie extended, and truth honoured: there faith is the champion of grace, and fame sounds the triumph of vertue: there comelinesse in apparell, temperance in diet, measure in labour, resolution in loue, meditation in grace, and contemplation of comfort, prone by all notes in the instruction of perfection, that in supernaturall blessings it is a kinde of heauen vpon earth: when in the holy assemblings the world is at silence, and Organs sounding, and voyces singing, hearts reioycing, and spirits adoring to the Maiesty of Eternity, are heard the Hallelujah's of Glory. But what shall I speake of so much, and more then I can conceiue, hauing spent so little time there, and lost so much time elsewhere, but leaue onely to thee, that liuest there, and knowest the wonder of that worth whereof thou diuidest no little part, to wishme with thee, who will never be from thee, and when I can, will see thee: till when, let me heare from thee, to hasten my comming to thee: so thou fare onely partner in thy happinesse, to ioy in thy ioy. I rest,

Thine what I can by mine own,

R. D.

The Answer.

KIND Robin, if my wit were as good as thy memory, I should concrine what thou hast recaydon, and loke a little into that which thou hast looked through: what thou saiest is or should be true: bookes indeed are sweet companions till they trouble the braine with too much study, and grow hurtfull to the heart, in the trouble of the head: but where conceit is carefull, and God is merciffull, there is learning gracious, and religion glorious: where heart loyes loue, and loue obseruesth law, there knowledge is well practised, and truth worthily honoured. I would it were so in all and am sorry it should not be so in any: but if there be no faith on earth, where shall vertue be seene in the world? there is pro and contra, yea, and nay, in the Schooles, and yet when all is done, there is but one truth: there are diuersities of degrees, and but one Grace the giuer of all: diuers measures of knowledge, and one wisdome the inlightener of all: and many sundry gifts of graces, but God is the glory of all: worthily thou is his seruant of all, that is the Lord and Maister of all, and neuer enough to be praised on earth, to whom all the host of heauen doe sing an eternall Halelujah. In the garden of Paradise there were but two Creatures, and one of them tempted the other: when there were but two brethren on the earth, one slew the other: among the Prophets some were false: among the Apostles one Iudas: and then what kingdome can be free from Traitors? what high way free from theeues? what sea free from pirats? what City free from Cutpurses? what Court free from backbiters? what house free from sluggards? and what Vniuersity free from Truants? But happy are those Spirits whom God hath chosen for his owne seruice: and blessed are those Schollers that are religiously learned, and gloriously that Religion that is the rule to eternall life: Such a Scholler hast thou beene, such rules hast thou read, such a life hast thou chosen, such a God doest thou serue, that like a Bee hast suck'd the honey of the flowers, and left the

weeds

weeds for the Spiders to spin their webs on: but, though there be clouds in the ayre, yet the Sunne shineth through them, and though there be weeds in the garden, yet the heat ha grow abouo them, and are kept from them; there are rotten sheepe, but they are seuered from the flocke, and there be wicked among the godly, but they are knowne by their courses: but to speake truth, here is the fountaine vnder heauen of the water of Life: here shines the light of grace through the clouds of contradiction: here grow the herbes of wholesomnesse aboue the poysoning weedes of wickednesse: here are the flocke of sound Lambes, seuered from the rotten sheepe; and here are the children of God knowne from the seruants of the Deuill: and therefore where the place is so full of pleasure, where the ground is so full of gladnesse, and the varieties of vertues draw the delight from vanities, where necessity is satisfied, and superfluity auoyded, where the rule of grace is the guide of reason, and God is glorified in the seruice of Loue: I must confesse, if there be on earth a Paradise, it is sure in this place, where I could wish thy presence, and will pray for thy company, which shall be no sooner then welcome, Till then, and alwaies in the truth of an honest heart, I rest,

Thine what I am or shall be to my power,

N. R.

To a Friend wishing him to marry.

GOOD Will, I heare your Parents haue left you a faire estate, and your providence hath well multiplied your money bags: but I heare withall, that you run a strange course: you frequent Sermons, but I feare you are neuer the better for them, for, I doubt you heare either with a deafe eare, or a dull heart, that the word takes no better effect in

your instruction. You may be a father of many children and not onely haue in abundance to defray all the charge that they shall put you to, but you shall when you leaue the world, leaue them sufficient with Gods blessing, to maintaine them in the world: where now you conuert much and enioy little, while your wealth possesseth you, and you not it: and when you shall leaue it, not knowing when nor where, you shall be a cause of great heart-burning among friends, when there is an inequality in disposing of your goods: If you haue not the gift of continency to make your soule a temple of the holy Ghost, yet let not concupiscence make in your conscience a kind of Hell vpon earth, mistake not gold for God, let not the drosse of the world be a barre to your better preferment, sine not to those that sine your goods and not you, whose hearts are on your purse, howsoever their eies be on your person. Take a Virgin, and let her vertue be her portion, her wit thy companion, and her loue thy comfort: a worthy wife is a second selfe, and a vertuous Virgin is like to proue an honourable Matron: a house Doue will not fye farre abroad, and a Turtle will never be far from her make: It is a breeder of good neighbourhood, an encrease of a liberty sed, an vpholder of a house, and a continuance of a name, and therefore marry while you are young, lest a stale Batchelor bee cheated with a cunning widow, or the want of a worthy issue leaue the world to a wild course. To conclude, bee not blinded with selfe will, nor giuen ouer to a solitary life: and being not borne onely for our selues, let vs doe good to the common wealth: and if I may perswade you, lie not alone, when you may haue a louing bedfellow. And so hoping you will not stand in your owne light to lose an occasion of happinesse, I rest,

Yours, as you know, H. R.

The Answer.

HONOVRED Henry, I commend thy wife, but not thy wit, for her wisdome hath so governed thy will, that thou hast forgotten they selfe in being hers, for thy bondage hath giuen thee liberty to speake that thou vnderstandest not: for, though mariage be honourable where the maried are honest, and a wife is comfortable, where kindnesse is constant, and the seed of Loue is a sweet blessing to life, yet when nature is fraile, and loue is blind, when spirits are not begotten with bodies, and the danger of youth braves the sorrow of age, when the dates griefe is more then the nights pleasure: and while the Diuell is so great in the World, that there is not a true Angell vpon earth: when bodies and minds are not all one, and holy vakes come to seldome, that the wakes workes seeme tedious, and home speakes of nothing but alwaies of one and the same, and neighbours sometime are worse companions then strangers, and the continuance of a name is better forgotten then remembred: though the best is to be hoped, yet there is so much of the worst to be feared, that I had rather sup vp my sorrowes alone, then heare another crie for cruell heart, and conceiue a concealed comfort, then haue a partner in the knowledge of my content: for my estate, if I impaire it, it is my owne hurt: if I increase it, others may receiue good by it; and rather had I leaue for an enemy, then to be beholding to a friend: it may be that a virgin whose dowre is a rich portion, may worke much in the mind of a wise man, but wisdome is seldome, and better such a iewell, as men are hardly inuoned by the and women strangely endowed with the other yet, since I must confesse, wantonnesse is a kind of wickednesse, and better to be in bondage to a woman then to the deuill, in hope there may be better then wooden Saints in the world, if thou canst help me to such a Creature as then hast hit on, I will follow thy counsell, and hope of thy comfort. And thus, hoping that then wilt in thy loue, labour for the quiet of my life; and

if

if I be wauine into a bargaine, not to repent me of the price, wishing the continuance of thy happinesse, and my selfe no worse a companion, then so good a neighbour to line and thriue by, till time meet mort to talke further of the matter, with hearty thankes for thy kind letter, in the kindest loue that thou canst vsdue, I rest,

Yours as you shall euer finde, T. R.

To a Friend that was determined to marry: a dissuasiue Letter.

SIR, I heare that of you that I expected not, and you must heare from me that perhaps you desire not, a dissuasion from a wilfull running into an irrecouerable woe. I heare that you are to take a wife, or rather to be taken of a wife, and to haue her put vpon you, that hath had many put vpon her: mistake not my meaning: for if all haue beene refused but you, either there is a defect in their worth, or her iudgement: howeuer it be, I am sorry it is as it is, for in my conceit, mariage is such a market of, who giues more, that sometime the Chapmen lose all and if they repent them of their bargaines they are neere the better, and if they hold it they are so much the worse: for let me a little put on my conseuering Cap, and speake to some purpose; What can shee be that can be worthy of you: and when you haue her that you lose not by her? Beauty may breed Iealousie, and wit may be a mantuer: against, a fole and a foule one are a couple of trotting companions: riches may breed pride, and poueryty change: if shee be noble, you must make courtesie to all her kindred: if base, you must maintaine a nest of Beggers: if shee commaund not all you haue, and your selfe too, shee will say, and if she haue haue all at her will, what case are you in? If shee neuer loued any before, how can shee loome so long you: and if she loued many before, you shall be but one among the rest: if shee be a Gossip, your house will be

her

her least home: and if she be tongue-tied she is in a pitiful taking: if she be young, her time is dangerous: if a gin, her object grievous: if wise, take heed of craft: if fetch hungrily Baby: In summe, take heed of the worst, for the best may have a shot: and this know withall, that the market once made, there is no going backe with the bargaine. If you buy a horse, you may looke in his mouth for his yeares, you may try his pace how you like him, and if you buy him, and after do mislike him, with a little losse you may sell him: but a wife once had, you must keepe her, and like a Pig in a poke, take her at all aduentures: repenting is to no purpose, she must be kept, and as she will be kept, or else you will be kept in little quiet. I see it with many in the world, and therefore feare it will fall out so with your fortune: take heed therefore what you doe: and if there be such an one as may be worth the seeing, write me word that I may applaud your opinion, hope of your pleasure, and pray for your happinesse. And so till I heare from you, I rest.

Your bonseruen, F. W.

The Answer.

GOOD Franke, didst thou were read the tale of the two young Friers, where one hauing perswaded his fellow to leaue his solitary life in the Church, and to looke a little into the pleasures of the world, to leaue thinking of chaste Virgins, and to take an honest and kind wife, meaning thereby rather to fulfill his course, or to hewen to fall into his purgatory: within a few daies after that one of them had followed the counsell of the other, in the course of carnall copulation, the other meeting him in a faire morning, walking about a Widdow plot of his wives Fathers possession, and seeing him wiping his eies, came to him, and with a great sigh, saluted him in this manner, What, in some repent thee of an ill bargaine? is it possible that a wife can be such a Purgatory? when the

[illegible] to Euphues, I [illegible] to the end of it, [illegible] such matter [illegible], I wisperth [illegible] what [illegible] I have lost the [illegible] of life, but [illegible] I [illegible] worthy beloved, for [illegible] beauty [illegible] happiness [illegible] full [illegible] may [illegible] wise [illegible] worthy [illegible], will [illegible] wonder of worthy in the judge [illegible] as to the words cannot be expressed, let [illegible] which will be a pithy [illegible] of a whole [illegible] of all [illegible] the [illegible] wishes [illegible] loue, [illegible] that knowes how to speake, is [illegible] to be heard [illegible] number of children is better than a [illegible] of [illegible] and vertues being her honour, she is worthy [illegible] sauoure then should [illegible] white [illegible] and then if worthy his gracious [illegible] what time shall be [illegible] with the [illegible] of beleeue, [illegible] cannot judge of colours, nor weake wits of more worth then the world. For my selfe, I am rather glad then proud of a great blessing, in my nights Philomene, and my dates Larke, in my youle Doue, and my woods Turtle in my hearts is well, and my loues honour: whose wit rather teacheth reason, then troubles will, and whose care exceeds experience in iudgement: for her carriage I know none that hates, for her [illegible] for her, to that [illegible] man [illegible] her, and [illegible] honour her for my selfe, [illegible] in my [illegible] sense, and to my friends, [illegible] will [illegible] be [illegible] worthy [illegible] the [illegible] better [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] in it [illegible] make [illegible] of [illegible] I [illegible] I [illegible] to [illegible] I [illegible] time, [illegible] I [illegible] to all, [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] gentlemen of [illegible]

A Letter of Complements.

SIR, how much I am obliged to your honourable favour, I would my better service, then protestation might approve. I hope I was not borne to be in the Roll of the ungratefull; though time and occasion are slow in my thankfulness. I had written to you long since, but that hoping your kindness, I doubted not troubling you with vanities; having no business of importance, that might answer your patience in perusing them; for time & Bickwits come slower then true, and have spent much speaking one matter of two, the antiquities of Charitie is almost lost in oblivion, and pride in affected humanitie and folly in the world is so full of inundations, that honesty is little thought of, and faire weather more prized for them, in whose interests are depending the death of rich men, and the Drapers benefit and profoundest Peices are the Merchants good Masters, and have no other pleas, for they wear that, Clothes and can scarce pay for their lodging, much pleading against sloth, but the frailty of flesh, makes fools forget their lessons: more borrowing then paying, and more Beggers then Lawers, and yet Brokers and Scriveners are shewn the idle fashion, wanting what is the sum is so common, that it takes acquaintance in every street; they clothes are often pawned before they are payed for, and Bonds with their formalities more Bankerupts of them are in fashion. Time is most regarded in the present Tense: for what is past is forgotten, and what is to come is not thought of, friends are many in name, none there in Nature, and Nature a man is most his owne enemie. For my selfe as you left me, I am, and what I am or can be, that be no more mine owne, after yours: To whose command and I leave the service of my love, and forsake

N. W.

The Answer.

HOW you are beholding to me I know not, for I find you not in the Roll of my Debtors; but, if in anything I may pleasure you, it shall be hard if I fail you, for your kinde Letter I thanke you, and when I may I shall be glad to see you; in the meane time a little to meet with your discourse, we have heere certaine observations, of diuers passages, as well among the male, as the female, where Kittes petticoats thinke their siluer as good as Sattin Kirtles, and the cloaten sho, hath more craft, then the vnslet Boot. The Shepheard liues merrier, then the maister of his sheepe; and though his Dogge is but a Cuore, yet he will wait better then a Lattrer Mongrell: new Alehouses swarme with beggers, and among many late gossips, there is more reeling then spinning, and he that is cunning at the Nic Nac, is seldome without a gamester: our vnghilie treat fatter then our Cocks of the game, and Mushrooms are so wilfull, that they are taken in euery Springe: our Sheepe are so full-bellied, that we doubt a great rot amongst them. Though the Cuckoes sing not, yet they breed in many by-places, and our Owles will not let a Ponie alone in a barne. Where our Foxes teare their Boroughs the Geese fly home to their Gardens, but if they meet with a Lambe, they will sucke out his poore blood. Many came to our Wakes, that were better haue beene asleepe, when things done in a merriment, fall out to a sorrie matter: the raging Cowards, a babbling Cockscombe, trouble our Constables, while the drunken Beggar sits, and sings in the stocks: poore Tenants are so behinde with their Rents, that many Landlords keepe but bare houses: Couetous Misers loue not to part with money and though they haue no charge, but a wofull wife, yet if it be to pay debts, they will deferre it till the last houre: Trauellers though they goe but a little way, yet, they will tell tales of great length; and soles, if they want company, they will lough at their owne shadowes: Wiseman keepe themselues

warme,

learne, and witty wenches, will not bee without friends: honestie and Virginitie are maried while they are young, and vertue and beauty are strange sights in a market: and when the Hound runnes with the Hare, the huntsman may goe home to dinner. Many other like notes, to no purpose, are heere among vs sometimes to make sport with; if you will come among vs, perhaps you will see matter of more worth: in the meane time, let mee entreat you the time may not bee long, when you shall make your owne welcome, and finde me to my power,

Your assured loving friend,

T.V.

A fantasticall Letter to a friend, to try both his wit, and his patience.

AFTER my hearty commendations to my friends, I wonder how you came in the Roll; but hoping of your health as mine owne, I would bee glad to see you, for feare of losing of mine eie-sight: but for hearing of you, except it be to preserue me from deafnesse, I assure you it neuer troubles mee: for when I know no good to expect from you, I wonder what I should doe with you, except to learne ignorance out of idlenesse, or to make worke to no purpose: yet for old acquaintance knowing this bearers comming mere you, I thought it good to tell you how well I loue you, yet lest you should misconstrue my meaning, let mee assure you, that hee that doth truly know you, will accordingly esteeme you: but if you know your selfe, it will bee the better for you. I am no Schoolemaster, and therefore will reade you no precepts, but, would wish you to obserue time in his working, for a good note is worth the keeping: and to hold a friend as a iewell, and a foe, as a losse of time: for

you selfe, if I could be what I would, I should be more yours than I am, and if you have as I could wish, you should be that you cannot. In briefe, if you come neere this towne, my house shall not hurt you, and if you come for my good, it may be, I shall thanke you: and so till I see you, or heare from you, I must content my selfe to be without you, and for for want of other matter to write unto you, I must thus make an end with you,

Farewell.

The Answer.

If I should commend my selfe to you, you would hold mee unwise, and to commend you, I know not for what, nor to whom, except it be to the man in the Moone, for your passage through the clouds. For if your wits were not in a mist, you would be in better temper with your braines for your sic-sight, no doubt but you will rather see your friends then your selfe, for feare a glasse should make you out of loue with your shadow: and for your heating, it is no better then your speeches, if they were both ware for the market, I know no man would give a penny for them: yet as you saith, old old acquaintance should be lost; I mean to let you see that I will not be beholding to you for such letters; and howsoever you think good notes worth the keeping, I assure you, I see nothing in you worth the noting, onely that a wanderer can with braine, that would be rather idle, than ill occupied, which if it can fall upon he better subject, then yours I know to be, some causing may put a stay upon your patience: yet if my pipe sound so not to bare to entertaine such a great strangers, I pray some where I am, I hope you will offer me no wrong, but what lesser I may, bee, to take it as I am, lastly, I know not what to be, yet that I think to be,

A

A Letter of Loue to a worthy Woman.

SWEET creature, whose worth the world may admire, and the best may command, giue me leaue with the seruice of my loue, to become a Suitor to your fauour, so fart to grace the humility of my affection, as to entertaine my desir of desert in the care of your command, in which, if my triall faile your truth, banish me the hope of your good opinion: pardon my plaine stile, that had rather be regarded for truth, then discarded for suspition of the contrary, and excuse my presumption in the entire faith of my affection, which desires rather to be your seruant, then a great master: my condition is not hale, nor my estate beggerly, for my person not deformed, nor my yeeres aged: onely in equality of minds we be, then my words can expresse, I subscribe to your excellence, and submit my happinesse vnder heauen, to your goodnesse: to the comfort of whose kindnesse, leaning the honour of my loue, and the ioy of my life, I take my leaue for this time, but rest alwaies.

Happy if yours, and be yours.

N. D.

The Answer.

VVHAT is it Sir, of better fortune then my folly, to command where I haue no interest, nor grace that I may honor, for your wisdome so disabling your equality with my vertue, cannot be suspected lesse then to ouer-ballance the best of my opinion: yet let mee with you rather to hold an honorable freedome, then an vnworthy bondage, and to be content with your selfe, then to aduenture the command of another: to doe you good, and my selfe no hurt, I should bee glad, but to doe you hurt, and my selfe no good, I should be sorry: let me leaue therefore, to your patience the issue of your loue, in the expectation of your happinesse, in some higher straine

then

then the means sting of my estate, which in the best that it can be, may be bettered in a blessed helps, to the hope thereof and prayers for which, with thanks for your kindnesse, I rest for this time, but hereafter may better rest.

Your friend, if no further,
M. W.

A kind Letter to one that was newly returned from Travell.

COUSIN, I heare of your safe returne from your long Travell, with your health, which I am heartily glad of, if I could see you at my house, your welcome I hope you make no doubt of, and in the meane time if your leisure from your more serious businesse, will serve you, to write a word or two of your travels in briefe, till more length of time may be fitter for further discourse: your letter I shall take as kindly as a greater matter from a greater man. Good Cousin if it may be, come home with this bearer, and be Porter of your own letter, or send me word when I shall send a Horse for you, and meet you by the way, where we may passe away the time with such passages as I know will passe for currant betwixt us: Thus loth to entertaine you with circumstances, and ceremonious complements in the condition of the best comes it the truth of an honest heart, I rest.

Your very kinsman and friend to use,
W. R.

The Answer.

GOOD Cousin, the longest way hath his night, and the [illegible] Travell hopes of a restfull returne: but the worse [illegible] vanity is no high way to happi-
nesse,

nesse, the nights so obscure the daies, the stormes so vitiate per the calmes, sicknesse such a crosse to health, and enuy such an enemy to vertue, that desires in their deserts, and deserts in their due, are either so delaied, or deluded, that when there is almost no faith on the earth, where is the hope of felicity in this world? I haue seene much, and obserued not a little, and in all nations one thing haue I chiefly noted, that money is become such a false god, as carieth many to the Deuill. Beauty is more artificiall then naturall, wisdome more spoken of, then known, fortune become an excuse of folly, and wit more subiect to will, then to reason: quarrels easier begunne then ended, and friends like Swallows, seldome seen but in Summer. Stratagems more bloody, then honorable, and conquests the agents of sorrow: war more vnciuill, then ciuill, and peace more blessed then praised: craft commended for conueiance, and truth more praised then practised: seruice but hopes heritage, and liberty the trouble of the law, honesty a badge to a hare-coat, and charitie at death more with colu[illegible] Yet God hath his Church where the people are blessed, the King is gracious, the Prince religious, the Councell wise, the Nobles vertuous, the gentles are courteous, the learned are studious, and the rich are charitable; where honesty is esteemed honorable, and truth is gracious, which honor and religion is held in high reuerence, where the God of peace, though a peacefull King hath made a peacefull kingdome: and let me speak truth, in all my trauaile, for all causes of content, I never saw such a Paradise, if there be any vpon earth: where it is, or what name, I will tell you when I see you, with many other matters of some import, too tedious at this time to write of. Shortly, as I can I will see you, and till then wishing you as to my selfe, health and hearts happinesse, I rest,

Your very louing kinsman,

D. I.

A letter to a Brother at Court.

BROTHER, I doe not wonder a little, at the strength of thy wit, and the weakenesse of thy understanding; that canst conceiue so much, and consider so little: thou knowst, there is no seruice to the Court, no fishing to the Sea, but to bee an Ape in Court, to get nothing, but a pyed coat, gees me thinketh against the hatre of a good wit; to be kinde is a signe of a good nature, to bee courteous proues a ciuill demeanure, to bee honest, a gracious disposition, and to bee valiant, a braue spirit: but withouut taken with a slate sight into the world, how to get thy wit, to live like, and to leaue it: Words are but winde till their substance comes to weight, promises weake holds, till performance be found faithfull, and fortune a fiction vsed vile to beguile another: bashfulnesse is babish, where honesty neuer not blushes; hastinesse is idle, where patience is more profitable, and loue is best written in a golden letter. These Rules well read ouer, will tell you where you are out of square; but a Countrey man can be no Schoolemaster for a Courtier, and therefore rather nothing thee a happy houre of reuiuing Spowlenia conuiuiorum occasion, then to geane thee with vnkindnesse, to call thy wits in question for commenting, and allurring thee of a false friend in the Countrey, hoping our fortune finding thee in Court. Let me I pray thee heare from thee of daily occurrents so may be written, and read without the danger of the Lord Sheffield, that sometimes in stead of springing a Partridge, out finds a Woodcocke. I rest,

Thy true loving brother

M.N.

The Answer.

BROTHER, I haue receiued your letter, and know your loue, but for your iudgement vpon my wit, vpon the effect of my hopes, I had rather pitie your discretion, then reprehend your opinion: for, let me tell you, for your Differ at the Sea, if it were not for the Crab or the Lobster, the fish would line well enough with the Mine. I confesse a brazen face that cannot blush gets more then a shame-fac'd spirit, but how gets he it, with a nett, either of Chaucer, or some such author, and with a little drosse much scorne, more infamy, little estéme, and no honour: words bréds hopes, and their substance, happinesse: promises are the bonds of conscience, and their performance, the grounds of comfort. Time is the seruant of patience, and truth the care of wisdome; profit the honour of labour, and obseruation the eye of experience, where, though the déede séme long, Sunday is a blessed holy day: a blinde eie can iudge no colours, nor the Countrey the courses of the Court: therefore let them loue the world, that thinke neuer to leaue it, whatsoeuer bee the fiction of fortune, since it is not the outside, that shewes the inside, and the pleasing of humours, is the play of poore spirits, let me alone to vnderstand my owne language, and to determine of mine owne designes: yet for you selfe I loue you, for your aduice I thanke you, and for your loue I requite you with the like, assuring you, that what I am in my place, or shall bee in my preferment, I will be as fast a friend to thy affection, as thy loue is to my life; in which, as wee are in name, let vs be in nature all one, and the same, and so I rest,

Thy most louing brother,

R. N.

Two quicke hasty Letters.

COUSIN, I heare you are not well, I pray you by this bearer write me word how you doe, if you doe well I shall doe the better, for such is my affection, as cannot but be a partner in your passion: So till I heare from you, which I much desire, though but in a word or two, Farewell,

Yours, while I am mine owne,

D. T.

The Answer.

GOOD Cousin, I thanke God, I am well, if you be well all is well, farewell.

Yours or not mine owne,

B. T.

A letter of Loue, from *John* a Nods to his Sweetheart.

SWEETE Susan, you know I am no Miller, and therefore I will make no toggers with you: nor no gamster, and therefore will not play a false Carde with you; but as true as I live, I loue you, now that is the plaine truth, and therefore believe it; for by my ker sen soule, I doe not halt with you, for at the last turne when I last danced with you, your hand gaue such a twitch to my heart, that it was ready to leape out at my mouth, to deliuer my mind to you, but folkes were by, that I could not speake to you, and therefore I haue gotten the Schole-master of our Towne to write this for mée to you: Now, if you be as you are, and I hope will bée, as kinde to me, as I will be to you, it shall not bée long ere it come to

that

that vnshot, that shal not in hall be put backe againe: and therefore, I pray you, weare these Gloues that I send you, they cost mee two groats, I would they were better for you: so till I see you at the Wake, the next weeke, where I hope a good bargaine shall not bee long a making, when good ware will bee worth money, and an honest man will take paines for his liuing, I rest,

Your owne Sweetheart,

I. N.

Her Answer.

TRVELY, Iohn, I know not what to say to you, but I would be loth that you should bee so ill that I could not helpe you, but had I knowne your minde when I was last with you, I could with more content haue written to you: for I will tell you what; after you were gone from me, there came a yongster vnto me, that kept such a stirre with me, that there was no ho, but hee would haue me. For by his Troth hee sware, and all the Trothes that hee could sweare by, that for this whole yeare, he had had a moneths minde to me, and poe what I could, I could not be rid of him, before I did tell him that I could loue him, and so indeed I could, if I had knowne him, for he was a hansome fellow: but being a stranger, he should pardon me for the maine chance. Now therefore yet Iohn all his whole, and I am a true maid; and since an honest Bachelor is worthy of a good wench, without Cogs or Cards, by my Holidum. I tweare, there shall no loue bee lost betwixt true hearts, but I am my fathers iewell, and you are your mothers ioy: and therefore if they will thinke well of the matter, I hope all shall be, as it will be: For your gloues I thanke you, but why are you at such charges with mee: but tis no matter: there will be more gotten or lost, by that time

the bargaine be made up: at the Wake I hope to meet you, and therefore be not asleepe when you should be there: I will haue a tricke to get my father thither, and if you can bring your mother, I hope we shall haue a merry day: Farewell.

Thine owne if God hap hit,

S.P.

A Letter of quarrell from one Country youth to another.

NEIGHBOUR Robin you doe me wrong, and that more then I meane to beare at your hands: for I heare that you are a suitor to Margery my Sweet-heart, and that vpon the last Holliday you danced with her vpon the Greene: and like a sawcy fellow flapt her on the lips, when you parted from her: if I had been there, and it had been so, I would haue told you a little of my minde, but neuer bee the elle, I giue you warning henceforth, to bee quiet, and to meddle with your owne business, and let me alone with mine, and come no more to the Common where she goes a milking: for, if I catch you there, I will so clapper-claw your Cocks-combe, that you shall haue small mind of woing: and furthermore, I charge you, by these presents, that if you see her at the Market, that you speake not to her; and specially, that you goe not with her into an Ale-house, to drinke and talke with her. For indeed to tell you the truth I lacke but her consent to make her my Wife, for I haue loued her aboue these three weekes, though she know not so much: but she shall doe shortly, and therefore I wish you in good will to forbeare, otherwise you and I are two, and so will continue: and so I rest,

Yours as you vse me, R. L.

The

The Answer.

NEIGHBOUR Rowland you wrong your selfe so much, that nobodie neds to wrong you more: you believe that you heare, and therefore say, and write what you list: but fall out what will, Margery is my Swet-heart and shall be still. I will goe to the Common, and giue her a greene gowne, and helpe her home with her milke, and see her every day, and dance with her on the Holliday, and kisse her, and clip her too, and if you lowe on I care not, for spite of your nose, I will kisse her before your face, and aske you no byleave: and if you be angry, turne the buckle of your girdle behinde you: and for your blowes, begin when you dare; for if you dee threaten me, take heed to your selfe, lest I baste your leather shoulders, and you feele the weight of my fist, this is all I have to say to you, be what you will be, I will be as I thinke good to be, and so I rest,

Yours, as you mine,

R. W.

A mery letter to a Kinsman to craue his opinion of a neighbour of his.

COUSIN, touching your request I have written to you, to let you vnderstand that the man in the Moone keepes within the Clouds, and Venus and Vulcan are at iarre about Cupid, because Mars makes so much of him, that the Smith weares yellow hose: but the higher powers of the lower Regions have made all whole, he hath forgiuen her a fault, and she hath made his of his folly, and all is well, as long as it will hold: for your owne business, there is nothing neglected, that is necessarie; vpon my next writing, you shall heare further

to

to your content: in the meane time, I pray you let mée heare from you, how you do, and how your affaires hold their hopes; and among other things that you shall haue occasion to write of. Let me know your opinion of good man Charle your left side neighbour: for I haue of late heard much talke (but to little purpose) of him. Some say, hée is a very wise man, for, hé knowes on which side of his bread to spread his Butter: other say, he is a good man, for his word will bée taken with the best in the towne: other say, hé is a kinde man, for what he cannot eate, he will hide: some say he keepes a house al of our Ladie, for he giues nothing for Gods sake: other say he is a Snudge, and will not allow himselfe so good meat, as hé will his Horse. Some say he is a great Trauailer, bet wert Graues-end, & Lyon key, when to saue two pence, he goes in the Common Barge, and there hé hath talke enough all the tide, for all the people. For his proportion, hé is squared out like a scar-crow in a garden, with a face like the one of the foure winds in a Map: and some will say hé is a Cuckold, which I cannot beléue, for hé hath a very filthy Wife, that no man would but for spight: other say hé is a Mittoll, and that I can neuer beléue: for I thinke hé would be glad to haue any partner in his Wag-pudding: to be short, whatsoeuer I haue heard of him, let me entreat your opinion of him; and so without idle complements, in the affection of an honest heart, I rest:

Your very louing Kinsman,

T. B.

His Answer.

GOOD Ia, your kinde Letter I haue receiued, your kindnesse with thanks returned, your request I haue remembred. For my opinion of my left side neighbour, if I could tell what to make of him, I would say something of him: but trée you

should

should thinke I would make silence my excuse of ignorance. I will tell you a little what I think of him: whosoever speakes best, speakes worst of him, for his desert will answer it, without contradiction: for betwixt a shadow and a substance, a Knaue, and a Fole, a Monster and a Man, I know not how to decipher him. For his complection, like his condition: the one a sanguine, the other as blacke as pitch: for his haire, which is not much, yet that which is, is of the colour of a blacke Kone, and curles, like a Water dogge: his voice is lowd as a Criers, that puts all to silence, with Dyes. His wit all in craft, to compasse the world, a conscience as wide as Hell, a tongue that talks more then ten women, and lyes as fast as a Dogge will trot: yet among foles, hee is held a great man, and hauing one of the best houses in the parish, among beggers he is held almost as good as Parker Constable: but, for his house Doue, tis such a flesh Crow, that none but a Jacke Daw would come neere her: and for horne roto, since hungry dogges will eate onely puddings, I thinke he may passe with the rap of pide. For his hospitalitie, I know not what his priuate diet is, but in publique he hath but three dishes, Pike, Rise, and Water. Religion I thinke he hath none, but to come to Church to saue charges: and for kindnesse, I thinke he was gotten against the consent of both parties. For money, hee is as vnwilling to lend as to pay, and for neighbourhood, I know no man loues him. For my selfe, I haue heard and seene so much ill of him, that I am weary to thinke of him: and therefore till I see you, to tell you my minde further of him, I will write no further of him, but leaue him to the Lord to amend him: And so for this time I end, but rest during life.

Your most louing Kinsman,

D. R.

A Letter to the foolish Knight for the like matter.

GOOD Sir, graunt me to thy kind Letter, and true description of thy neighbour Goodis. I would be glad once more to heare a little of thy opinion of thy nere neighbour, Mistrisse the Wenill, whose name is like a Saint, and an Ladie of Calistonius. Some say, she had charmes in her eyes, to enchant the hearts of fooles, to make them seem pore to maintaine her pride, and for a tongue it talkes naturally evill, and foolishly to every Wenlock. She hath strange qualities, and not one worth a Mill-peny. She will trouble with her fingers as though she would play on a Lute, and tis but to play with a Lowt, and trip with her feet, as though she could dance, and tis but to see in her can tread her shoes, and she in a glasse to set faces, she to the belly but as she annoyst as her Bawds, put thee poly extremely, till she hath lost her a good tooth in her head, and takes Mebute to help a weese breath: sometime she will be melancholy, and sit, as though she had the cholick, and by and by falls a laughing ferie, as though she meant to make some base knickes in kind. I heare she is a wanton of sound shape, which makes me wonder, being so nutty, so good cheape round about her: her Poulers shop, I heare is growne pore, and yet she holds wate at rate above the market. I heare she hath undone your neighbour Gander, gone of Greenehill, and Mom Alle Mally hanged by the Hamlet next the Hedge side, and some other such merry fellowes, that will fetch Farmes, rather then purchase a Lease. Truely it is pitie, but when there is no helpe, tis as good leave a fole to his folly, as to talke to him to no purpose. And therefore hoping wise men will loke to keepe themselves Farme, loth to trouble thee with a long Letter to no better end: I rest to the end of this life.

Thine as mine owne,

D. P.

The

The Answer.

AT the receipt of your Letter, I met with Mistris Puscat my vngentle gentle, who came by mée with such a gesture, so much a-tet, as if she had foze horses, oz the vppertuynes were out of joint, and with such vngracious graces, that a horse, if he could, would have broke his halter to have kicke her: but to tell you my opinion of her, were it not fozloing of time to be employed in better business, I should speake much, and all too little of her nothing worth: but in a few wozds I will tell you what I thinke of her, when I haue thought all, not wozth the thinking on. She is the Painters Subject, and the Chirurgeons Agent: a Mistris of foles, and a companion foz knaues. Foz her qualities, she hath few good, and these she abuseth, foz her euill they are apparant without description: foz her disposition, she is inclined to no vertue, and foz her condition, she is notozioully vicious: foz her language she hath but one, and that she vseth very ill: foz vertue, it is a Riddle to her, and foz vanity, it is her loue. Foz her eyes, they are of the kind of a Cockatrice, foz if she catch a fole looking after her, though she kill him not, she will begger him: and foz her voice, it is like the Crocodiles, which if any giue her the hearing, he will hardly escape the sting of her hinder part: she loues a Gossip as her life, and her drinke as her soule: her Musicke is most vpon a Jewes-trumpe, and a base Fiddle: Foz her shop it is seldome shut vp, and foz her ware, she hath few Chapmen, and those that are, haue lost so much by her, that they are almost as weary of her, as I am with writing of her: and therefoze wishing her farther off, that I might not be troubled with her, till we meet together to talke further of her, I rest,

Thine or not mine owne,

P.N.

A cunning Letter to borrow money of a wary friend.

SIR, your often kinde promises make me presume to crave one performance, not that I doubt your kindnesse, but, that I would oblige my selfe to your love: for, though the matter be not great, nor my occasion much, yet at this instant a little may pleasure me more then a little: Fifteen Crownes is the summe I desire, five moneths the time for my payment, my Bond for your assurance, with requittall in a greater measure: Excuses are the worst answers, and the closest natures of denials, and a free spirit is most worthy love: it is the first, and shall be the last of my trouble in this nature: for I had rather lend then borrow: but since a sudden businesse bids me be bold with a friend, I had rather challenge a promise of kindnesse, then adventure a hope of courtesie. I pray you therefore, answer me by this Bearer, to such effect, as may make me finde you, and ever affirme you, as you shall ever have me

Your faithfull friend,

T.W.

His Answer.

SIR, I have received your Letter, and red the Contents, and would be glad to content you in a greater measure of kindnesse: but to doe my selfe much hurt, and you little good, I hope such is your wisdome, as will rather excuse me, then distaste me. Money I have, but such preferment for it, that, if I lend, I must borrow, and a friend will consider of occasions by his owne. Time is precious, to understanding spirits: and knowing your disposition, I dare presume of your affection, not to rest upon points, of any injurious imagination, but to

be resolute upon protestations of friendship without feyning. In briefe, pardon my unwilling denial for this time, and hereafter, wherein I may, bee assured of my best power, in which, with unfained good will, you shall alwaies find me,

Your very loving friend,

D. T.

A merry letter to a friend touching the description of an idle Companion.

VVORTHY Henry, I commend my loue to thy kindnesse, and knowing thy little loue to melancholy, am bold to trouble thee with an idle letter, rather to make thee laugh at an Asse, then to trouble thee with matter of more worth: wee haue of late come into our quarters, the foure quarters of a strange beast, which, in the shape of an ill fauoured asse, deceiues many a simple creature. What his name is I know not, but he is commonly called Sinior Snipskin, a Gentleman of the first head, and by them that vnderstand him, pointed at all points, not worth a point, for his proportion, neither a Giant, nor a Pigmey, but somewhat higher then three horse loaues; for his complection a sodden sanguine, and for his feature, a face to fright a Fairie; for haire of a darke Russet, and sparing in quantity, but such a nose as hanges ouer euery mans necessity, to make a gaine of his misery. Religious he seemes to be, for he will seldome sweare, but when he is angry, but hee will lie vnreasonably, especially, either to excuse a villany, or to deceiue simplicity, he is valiant, for hee fighteth with his seruants, which are commonly but one at once, and hee a poore man that scarce tarrieth out the time of his liuery; now then the knaue, which he often puts vpon poore soules, and for wit, because he can play the knaue cunningly, he thinks he is

 wiser

Gentleman a Gentlemen, he is alsy learned, and hath the Law at his finger ends, for he hath beene in all Courts, saving the Court of Conscience, for there he was never heard of, marrie he will not for feare of charge; but loues to cut of other mens loaues, and to haue a Trencher vpon other mens Table: his countenance is most betwixt a sleere and a laughter, and will abuse his best friend, and his wife too, if she will let him: some money he hath which he puts to vsury, and for that sorts among the takers vp, till out of his sight, they are glad to be rid of his company: he is blind of one eye, and lame of one hand, and yet with halfe a finger he can tel money to a farthing. Now I heare, this Whip Sir Ginny is a Suitor to Sir Dogbolts eldest shee child, and that there will be such a match as would make a dog mad to heare of it; but tis no matter, let them goe together, a braue couple of Baboones, when I see you next, I will tell you more of him, in the meane time to prepare your opinion of him when you see him, I haue giuen you some worthy distast of him, and so end, till life end,

Endlesse yours,

W. R.

His Answer.

TO quit your kindnesse, and to meet with your Maurice-dance, we haue lately come to our towne, as good a female as you haue a Iacke, a Mistrell of such a kinde, as never Falconer would take to fist: Dy tis a pugge for all day, shapt like a Sea-Crab, and fac't like an Owle, breath'd like an Pol-cat, and eyed like a Ferret, talkes like a Parrat, and sings like a Peacocke, for her parentage, it came from the Begger, and for her Dowtion, shee hath had a Bastard by a Tinker, and yet goeth here for an Vrchin in stead of a Virgin, and wearing good clothes, will keep company with strange Gossips: for her wit,

shee

she is a sweeter Ape, for she will play fast and loose with her Schollers, she is as kinde as a Cuckoe, for she was the death of her Grandam, and as vnruly as a Wil-horse, that brake winde before his Master, and yet this sweet Sow Pigge I heare say must make a match, with the heire of the Pyde Bull: in earnest it is such a hey ding ding, that I know not what to say to her; but that I will say no more of her, till wee meet together to laugh our fils at her: till when and euer, I rest,

What mine owne, thine,

M. D.

A fantasticall Letter to a conceited Friend.

MY good friend, and so: After my Commendations to my friend, I marueil how you came in my head, yet hoping you are in as good health, as I was when my head ach't, and wishing you no worse but then you did your selfe, I should be sorry that any ill fortune should befall you, lest you should not know how to vse it. I heare that of late your wit is decayed through want of vnderstanding, and yet you are of opinion, that you know the principles of Foulosophy: I wonder that you study so much, and vnderstand so little, as not to know, that a blinde man and he that stands in his owne light, are much of a sight: in deed I feare you dwell at the Labour-in-Vaine, or stare at the Moone, to see, if you can finde a man in it: for, I neuer saw a man that would seeme wise, make so little good proofe of it. I speak not out of any spleene, but leaue it to your selfe, to bee your selfe, that your friends may the better beare you company: for my selfe I hope shortly to see you,

and

and will love you much, if you will love your selfe a little, and me as you have cause, farewell:

From my lodging in haste, God keepe you:

Yours, as you wise,

B. T.

His Answer.

TO commend my selfe to you were idle, and to commend you were great ignorance: for your headach I believe it, your braines were so out of temper, that for want of a bridle to your wit, you runne your humour out of breath; but, to requite your kindnesse, I am as glad of your evill, as you are sorry for my good. Your abuse of many things, makes me feare the like in anything: wit without understanding is a riddle to my reason, but opinion without judgement, is an enemy to discretion; the triall of wisdome is not in trivall words: and to scoffe at Philosophy, is a Badge of folly. Labor in Vaine is the Labyrinth of vertue, who can scarce finde earth, to bring to any perfection: but for staring at the Moon, the man may be a fiction, but take you heed of the Sunne, lest you be asham'd of your owne shadow. For self-love farre be it from me: but for my friends, I shall love them as I have cause, and if you come where I am, I will not shunne your company: till when as I have beene, I am, and so intend to be,

Quid pro quo.

Yours, as you know,

R. B.

Of Malignancy in the world.

AND doe not you know Sir, that Frogs croke under the water: or you doe thinke perhaps that among the vnknowne mountaines of the new world onely the Anthropophagi, men-eaters are found, there are some here amongst vs and of the more cruell sort, which deuoure men quicke aliue: by this we know the world is the world: happy he that knowes it, but more happy that shunnes it.

Interchange of affection.

I Am not to make of stone, that in such one affection I need perswasion: therefore it was superfluous to put Mr. S. for a mediator, if ye make no doubt to affect me: rest assured I loue you, and I should loue you also when his did faile, for the onely merit of your vertue.

Putting off praise and congratulation.

SO it proues to him that measures others merits with his owne counterfe, and beholds them with the spectacles of affection, which make Emets seeme Elephants. I would I were that you seeme to thinke; not to bee ashamed for what I am, and not to blush at the prayses which you giue me in your congratularie Letter, which was more agreeable to you then

 mée,

mée, whose dignity so long deserued, not onely hath delayed the particular loy, but the common benefit, but not the reuerence and esteeme which alwaies you haue gained your selfe with the liuely force of your vertue: and perchance the deserning much hath prolonged the little as vnequall to your merit: but I pray trouble not our comforte with threatning, and with silence; since the greatnesse of your word, not only may ioyne the venge to the pen, but if néed require, the Piter to the sword, and make with the celerity of the one, more regardfull the dignity of the other; your inuitation hath given me wings, but I know not whether I shall be able to flye, and is I can I will come to see and serue you.

I Am to slacke in thanking you for the courteous letter sent me from M. Z. wherein he gives mée such a fine present of his friendship, and acquaintance; that I neuer thought my selfe so fortunate, as now by the gaining of so a gentle and vertyous a friend, that is able to make my friendship gracious and remarkeable. One thing remaines onely, your amplification hath in it to great a part, that I doe not satisfy this acquaintance with so good a conscience as I should. For I doubt ye haue put away my lattoch metall, for fine gold: but all the hurt that may ensue, shall reuolume to you that haue made the contract, to whom it belongs, to make it good: and to be condymned in the cost and charges.

I write letters more for to certifie him that reads the business, then to ennoble the writer.

I pray you loke ouer my writings with a rod in your hand, rather then praise in your mouth.

In conclusion, this time I leaue to trouble your eyes, and pardon you my hand: so with kissing yours I end; praying God to give you the height of your vertuous contentment.

Of Meere among familiar Letters.

WHY, Sir, we are all mute, it seemeth, yet yeare, which flames yet obtruding, who will is compelled to know, who is most zealous to bee, to honor her with the name of zealous; which flame (by your leave) belongs rather to me, that suffers not long silence: nor to flatter the title of a cold friend, tell thus much to M. T. when you give him this enclosed: and if you will not speake because you will be silent, yet speake at least to answer, but true happy for all your silence.

Complement from one in the City, to his friend in the Country.

MY seruices are at your commandements, then commaunde me often if ye desire to serue me: and recommend me to my most honored friend your Cousin N. V. If you desire to fauour me, depriue not the City of her ornament, with your abiding in the Countrey: you well know, that you can make stiff the sauage woods, and make the City rude: if not, I'le come to be a countryman also, not to be a clowne in the City.

Encouragement and aduice to study, from a Master to his Scholler.

WITH my infinite thankfulnesse I vnderstand your letter, by which giuing me notice of your studies, you vouchsafe to shew how much you haue already profited in study, which is no small matter, for your years: neither doe you desiring a whit the hope, that hitherto is conceiued of your wit

Proceed then with courage, and heare the Poets and Orators so that diuine Oracles may alwaies sound in the eares of your heart, and haue not somuch in veneration, the engine of Tully or Virgill, but that much more, ye reuerence to them the author of wits, and fountaine of wisdome, to whom dling to recommend your selfe often, as I perswade my selfe you doe, ye shall vnfeaned I am here you, in your loyes I am present.

Frank affection tels me and assures me, that in your remote absence I am here you in your loyes I am present.

I am glad that D. T. is fitted in a place, vertue hath a fauor, and merit a reward, and where there is that can iudge and reward, I would aduise more censure if you did not honor me so much with the title of a master, but since ye will haue so, be it so, for if any victorie can glorifie the vanquished, it is where masters are excelled by their Schollers.

Condoling the death of a friend.

THE bitter newes of the death of P. Q. hath so thrown downe and mortified me, that being iorned to the state of health wherein I am, leaues me no sense to any thing but to sorrow: and if my heart had beene of yron, when I read your letter, it would haue beene a power full Adamant, to haue drawne from my eyes a riuer of teares: his soule is in Paradise no doubt, as the world hath and will haue still his glorious name in veneration: we may say, that in his very grave, dead as he is, he shall haue immortality of name, and the chiefe prize of a worthy scholler, as alive he found in the hearts of so many great men, most rare humanity, and fruitfull compassion, he had ouercome enuie, now being dead, he hath kill'd it and made it nothing: for fame beginnes to liue from the death of men, as the end of life is the beginning of glory.

If I can compose any verses that consist my fancy, I shall power out all my shallo in bankes in this great Ocean, whether all the riuers of earthly Paradise runne with teares to pay tribute, &c.

Long

Long sicknesse.

YOUR longsome infirmitie accompanied with long prayers that you may recouer, hewbeit sicknesse is nothing but a long inuitation of mercy, makes you to meditate on your end, then be are patiently this fatherly chastisement, and remember that the more weake and infirme this flesh is, the less force it hath to rebell, and to contendict the spirits, which I pray God fortifie in you alwaies with the force of his holy hand.

Condoling.

OUR Reuerend friend C. S. is passed to a better life. I rest comfortlesse, for so great a losse; and live in a manner, that it well appeares I live without ioy, and cannot tell whether I may take comfort, that, that happy soule loued mee much, or whether I may weepe, that he left mee so soone: I will weepe, for to wretched and miserable men, nothing is more comfortable then teares.

A bare Complement.

SIR, not vouchsafing mee sometimes your commandements, is as it were, a commanding to bee silent: but yet I will not be so still, but that at least you may remember I liue, and liue yours: I pray acknowledge me for such a one, in some signe that may more respect the greatnesse of your dignitie, then my small desert.

A challenge for not writing.

WHERE are all the promises to write vnto mee that you made in your Letters? I doe not thinke Lenten hath absolutely gon from them: For you being the mother of courtesie, and the Schoole of civilitie, rather ought to checke you for the defaulte, then require you to satisfaction, then to pardon you in your wandering. I cannot expecte you hitherto in perfonam; yet I study to see it in those dayes of Lent you at least will make conscience thereof, and whether you thinke to kerpe Easter with this offence: But I hope you will surnay your fault if for nothing else, not to faile your promise.

A certificate of the dooldeling of a friend vpon the death of his mother.

WHAT is this life? but a short and cloudy winter? we are in it, and we are out ere the morning, we there at min-day, and few see the euening: but yoile mother hath finished her course neere the last houre; with that purtie, and innocency of life, as she began the first: it is a great comfort, to all vs that are akin, and to you in particular, that is her sonne: who mee thinks I see betweene the affection of zeale and loue to your mother, and the Decorum of manly fortitude, paint out this accident, with your wonted prudence. Tis only nothing remaines to tell you concerning this: but for your greater consolation, that in my armes she yeilded vp her spirit.

Slight condoling.

THE death of A. M. griueth me; rather in respect of you that in reason feele it, as the loſſe of an Vncle ſo louing as he was, then for reſpect of him: ſince he hauing liued fourefcore yeares: and his life leaning onely on the falling ſtaffe of extreme old age, was more to be feared then hoped: hereupon I ſay, that you hauing ſo farre off foreſeene the ſtroke, you haue felt it ſo, that it might not paſſe, to the ſecond motion of the minde, and therefore I will not ſtay to comfort you, nor to mourne with you, that he is dead that muſt needs ſome day, rather that by courſe of nature, could liue no longer: God that hath tane him to glory, preſerue you long aliue.

Offer of ſeruice.

IT ſhould be to ingrate, for the great fauour that comes from you to me, if I did not repay thoſe graces with my pen: which I would doe more willingly by ſome act of ſeruice: if I could euer hope to be of worth, that I might be admitted in the number of thoſe ſeruants, which are not altogether vnprofitable. Notwithſtanding forbeare not to condemne me ſometimes: for by this meanes you might, making me what I am not, cauſe me to be eſteemed more worthy then I am worth. So with doing you reuerence, I pray God alwaies to preſerue your moſt excellent perſon.

To

To the same *F. G.* thankes.

O how many fauours, Sir, you doe for mee: when shall I euer be able to requite them: but you expect nought from so poore a Debtor; you liue to giue helpe, and count it a happinesse to doe a benefit, whereby ye hold your selfe well rewarded, while occasion is offered you, to exercise your courteous goodnesse, which I hope you will accept in stead of seruice; the ardent desire that liues in me to serue you, liues my fortune will not as yet allow mee other wise to manifest my thankfulnes: Liue happy as the Patron of I. G.

So I kisse your hands no lesse desirous of your commaunds, then to be fauoured by your courtesies.

Congratulation.

WITH new merits you are alwayes making way for new offices, and new honors: I am as glad of it as any earthly thing can make mee: and for a signe of it, send you this short congratulation, to kisse your hands.

By being Seruant to the most illustrious your Noble Lord, you haue excellently well prept by your hopes, and brought you backe to a safe hauen: he is a Master of great gownesse, and experimented worthinesse: and for that which I could collect in the little time that hee fauoured me with his presence, hee hath an amiable carriage, calme behauiour, and a pleasant easeinesse, a great aduantage for seruants: my minde prognosticates great matters of him, and my heart tels me, that he shall haue higher honours: and of you I haue no meane thoughts: hauing vivacitie of wit, which you can manage with facilitie, and can accommodate to that which may be for your aduancement: and

for

for the Philosophy of Court, you haue as much as in euery occasion to make vse of. Then serue cheerefully and loue me; but not like a Courtier.

If I am iealous, because I am a louer; but yet inflamed with such a fire; that the vertue of him which kindles it, doth adde fuell likewise, and makes the flame immortall, as the cause is also.

What a fine manner to vanquish me without battell by shewing onely the weapons, a double victory of reason and courtesie.

My slacknesse to pleasure you, is nothing, but a desire to serue you, the more completely.

A louing parting complement.

At what time, I thinke of your departure (and I doe not seldome thinke thereon) I afflict my selfe altogether, with such an intentiue griefe, which couers my heart with a thicke cloud of melancholie, that by little and little is dispersed into my countenance; that it takes away my being and power to shew my selfe cleare, and transparent, as I vse to be towards you. But if loue be reciprocall, you may by the motions of your minde conceiue as much: and that you should not tame me, 'tis impossible, because you are not farre in his crafts and I who haue so great a part thereof, know that I am not deceiued: rather it seems, that if you at length vs would serue a little lesse louing, and would be also a little discourteouser, then I should not feele so much, your departure. But you cannot faile to be your selfe in all occasions: and I in this point will learne, to be more temperate in my affections: and will make profit in thinking on the pleasure of our meeting againe.

Advice for writing Letters.

I thanke you, for remembring mée, and for the loue you beare mee, for which ye haue mine in exchange; but I would ye wrote vnto mée more familiarly, without so many curiosities, and so many perfumed phrases, besides I cannot tell if it were your will of purpose to write vnto mée in the vulgar tongue, there are so many Latine sentences, wherewith you haue stuffed your Letter. But vpon such Pedantick infection. Letters should not be so learned: chiefely those that are written to familiar friends, and treat of domestical affaires, and if you can interlace some Latine words, it would be done temperately, and with much iudgement, they should be rather Mottoes or Prouerbs, that sound better in that then our tongue, and to vse them in such fashion, as Cicero vsed the Greeke tongue: Beauties are naturall to each language, translations will seeme affectations. Let your elocution be cleare, and not intangled with labour that pleaseth not. Words should not be gathered from the bowels of antiquitie, for ostentation of vpnesse of the language: nor so new that vse hath not embraced them, and make them common. Let them be proper, and of good sound, and fit for a Letter, and not for an Oration. [illegible] haue a hundreth things to say, [illegible] to vse: follow your studies: Let your [illegible] vnto you, and the commoditiousnesse of the place helpe you: your [illegible] will not fail you, but hope a [illegible] with studying so much, you will [illegible] life: If ye come to this City, [illegible] will make you goe away thence against your will.

A

A complement for a loving Letter.

MY wit is poore: but it is made rich in the riches of yours, which so liberally you offer me, in your precious Letter: whereby you praise, and enrich me equally at one instant. Notwithstanding for the riches I accept them, to supply my want: the praise for my instruction. And I give you Sir in lieu there of so much love, that with this treasure I can enrich you as wel as I am honoured, and made immortall by your pen.

God grant you long life, that long you may bee good, and me more abilitie and worth that I may bee worthy your commandements.

Shreds of complements.

I Give you infinite thankes for entreating mee for that which I should beseech you: you would fauour me, without obliging me; nay make your selfe my debtor, where I owne so much, that I dare not aduenture it in words, since I cannot satisfie it with effects.

Remember that in a gentle heart, with a few good words, many ill deeds are reconciled.

I pray comfort me with your commandements, for being present in seruice, I shall not seeme to be farre off in person.

If I were assured not to erre, in fore-seeing my owne acts, as I am certaine not to faile in prognostication of your merits, I would not doubt to be a great Soothsayer.

I giue you infinite thankes: and beseech you though you are neere to the Crowne, to bee neerer me also with your commandements, that I [illegible] by seruing you: as I am bettered by your vsuall fauours, &c.

Putting off prayses.

YOUR Poetry makes me much more then my selfe to performe its office; which is to faine things not as they are, but as they should be; and by how much it is the more rich of inuention, by so much it is the better poesie. Therefore I pardon not, all the excellencies, and magnificencies that you giue me, since that you doe it not so much to exalt me as to make glorious your compositure; which is altogether beautifull, I meane for your artificiaiship, not for my name, it seeme it shewes me, that which I should be, whilst it makes the thing, which I am not: Well therefore I sigh and all in vaine, because that in that [illegible] I should rather more Historian, then Poet: and so Historically, that is, without figures, I remaine yours.

I pray conform me with your commandements, for being ignorant in learning, I shall not learne to be learne all in vertue.

Courage

Courage to proceed.

I Am glad that you recreate me with the fruit of your gentle inuention, yet I would they were finished, and that you did not like the Leopard, who if at the first leape he catcheth not the game, hee regards it not, nor followes it more. Believe me that to write well is not a business so by chance: but it requires a constant sufferance, and a long diligence; hee that the birthes many times are worthy of light which are made in darknesse.

Onely the art of writing.

I Write onely to write vnto you, for I am in such continuall motion, and haue my mind so dispersed in a hundreth parts that I cannot recollect it easily; when I come home I will giue you somewhat to read, and to thinke, and also to doe: now onely I giue you occasion to speake by recommending me to all our friends.

Of praise of the person.

I Neuer reason with my memory, that I talke not with you: nor never commerce with my bookes, that I see not a true draught of your vertue: and that in the fame of the most worthies past, yours doth not resound oftentimes: and that I see

and Quantum in Clouds, which flower age bound easily obtaine this pastime, if you can frame fair like to you. Nie not matchlily with the touch, grown power it gardens. That end angb from such powers or examples, I cannot containe my pen, but it flyes to reverence you, not my Quill, but with a still voice it sings your praise: Inducation has a patrone of the one, and other effect, yes [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], wherein if I shall prove have obliges to praise with as much grace, as in justice you deserve, you shall not be defrauded of your merit, nor I of my profession [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]